

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for withdrawing the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection in light of the amendments made in the June 13, 2003 Amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a) Rejection - Claims 1-16 and 45:

Claims 1-16 and 45 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the previously applied Junya reference. Applicant notes that the Examiner has also indicated that claim 83/45 is included in this rejection. However, claim 83 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicant submits that this is a typographical error and will proceed under that presumption.

Turning now to the merits of the rejection. The Examiner is maintaining the same rejection of these claims, and maintaining the same reasoning. As such Applicant continues to disagree with the Examiner, and traverses the above rejection based on the discussion set forth below.

Specifically, in response to Applicant's arguments presented in the June 13, 2003 Amendment, the Examiner has stated that "Figure 10 of Junya shows that the plurality of subtanks (50K, 50Y, 50M, 50C) [are] connected to at least one main ink tank of the tanks (134K, 134Y, 134M, 134C)." Further, the Examiner states that "[t]he applicant argues that the manifold lines of Junya are not used to transfer ink. The argument is not persuasive because the main tanks (134) of Junya supplies ink to the sub-tanks as shown in Figure 9." See Office Action, page 6.

Applicant completely disagrees with the Examiner, and submits that the Examiner appears to be ignoring the plain language of the claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 recites:

“a plurality of sub tanks, communicated with said at least one main tank, *each* sub tank storing ink supplied from *said* at least one main tank, and being communicated with at least one recording head”
(emphasis added)

As clearly set forth in the language above, the present invention contains a main tank that is communicated with a plurality of sub tanks such that each of the sub tanks receives ink from the one main tank. This is not disclosed in Junya, in any way.

Applicant does agree that Junya discloses the following:

- a) at least one main tank (134);
- b) a plurality of sub tanks (50C, M, Y, K); and
- c) that the plurality of sub tanks (50) are communicated, via pressure lines, with the main tanks (134).

However, as indicated in item (c), above, and as clearly depicted in Figure 10 of Junya, the common “communication” between the main tanks 134 and the sub tanks 50 is through an air pressure manifold. There is no disclosure, of any kind, of a common ink line, such that each (or at least two) of the sub tanks 50 receives ink from any one of the main tanks 134. In fact, if this were the case, the system in Junya would simply not function, as all of the different color inks would mix together. Stated differently, in Junya, each of the main tanks 134C, M, Y and K are connected to only one of the sub tanks 50C, M, Y, and K, respectively. In this way, the main tank 134C supplies ink to only the sub tank 50C. If the Examiner’s assertion was correct, and the tank 134C was capable of supplying ink to all of the sub tanks, then the cyan color ink from

134C would be mixed with the black (**K**), yellow (**Y**) and magenta (**M**) colors. This simply does not occur.

Further, in an effort to state that Junya discloses this aspect of the present invention, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Figure 9. Applicant submits that Figure 9 gets the Examiner nowhere. Specifically, Figure 9 of Junya, is simply a depiction of one combination of tank **134** and one subtank **50**. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions there is no "plurality" of sub tanks **50** coupled to the main tank **134**. In fact, all that is shown, in Figure 9, is one of the four combinations of main tank **134** to subtank **50**, that is used in the Junya system. For example, this is simply the **134C** and **50C** tanks, or the **134M** and **50M** tanks, etc. The specification clearly indicates that there is only one tank **134** and one subtank **50** shown in Figure 9.

At no point is there a disclosure of having one of the main tanks (**134M**, **C**, **Y** or **K**) supplying ink to any two of the sub tanks (**50C**, **M**, **Y** or **K**). As pointed out previously to the Examiner, such a configuration would result in the mixing of two different colors of inks.

In view of the foregoing discussions, Applicant submits that Junya fails to disclose each and every feature of the present invention as set forth in claims 1 and 45. Namely, there is no disclosure, of any kind, of "a plurality of sub tanks, communicated with [] at least one main tank, each sub tank storing ink supplied from [the] at least one main tank, and being communicated with at least one recording head". Claim 1. Therefore, Junya fails to anticipate the present invention, under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection of these claims.

Further, as claims 2-16 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 17 and 18:

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junya in view of the Uzita reference. However, because Uzita fails to cure the deficient teachings of Junya with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claim 82:

Claim 82 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junya in view of the Hmelar reference. However, because Hmelar fails to cure the deficient teachings of Junya with respect to claim 45, Applicant submits that this claim is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

Conclusion:

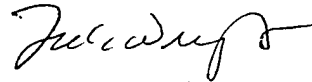
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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